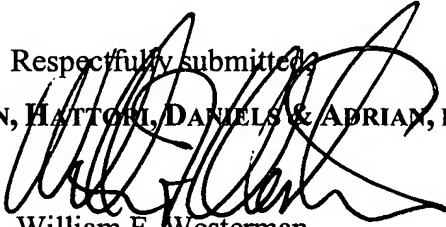


Preliminary Amendment
Attorney Docket No. 042599

REMARKS

The above amendment to the claims incorporate the changes made under PCT Article 34 into the present application, cancel the multiple dependency of claim 4 and add new claims 5 and 6 to compensate for the cancellation of the multiple dependency. An English translation of the annexes of the PCT Article 34 amendment is enclosed.

In the event that any fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: English translation annexes of the PT Article 34 amendment.

Amendment under PCT Article 34 filed on October 30, 2003

CLAIMS

- 5 1. Claims 1, 2 and 3 must be amended as attached sheet.

CLAIMS

1. (Amended) An impeller having a disk-like main plate, a blade joined to said main plate, and a side plate having a suction port,
5 characterized in that:

a boss hole is formed in a central portion of said main plate for attaching a boss which engages with a pump shaft to said boss hole,

wherein a step portion is formed around the boss hole, which is formed in said main plate, by drawing so that when a plurality of main plates
10 are piled on one another, a gap is formed by said step portions of adjacent main plates to prevent said adjacent main plates from being adhered to each other.

2. (Amended) The impeller as recited in claim 1, characterized in that
15 when said gap is set to be in a range of 0.3 mm to 0.4 mm.

3. (Amended) An impeller having a disk-like main plate, a blade joined to said main plate, and a side plate having a suction port, characterized in that:

20 a radially inner end portion of said blade which is joined to said main plate is rounded near a portion at which said blade is joined to said main plate.

4. A multistage pump characterized by comprising a plurality of
25 intermediate casings, impellers, as recited in any one of claims 1 thorough 3, housed in respective intermediate casings, and a main shaft for supporting said impellers.